

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman David Obey
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we are writing to support continued investment in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). We appreciate the significant support for Title I contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask that Elementary and Secondary Education Act remains a high priority in FY10.

The goals of the 2002 reauthorization of ESEA – to set high standards, improve student performance, and increase accountability – require a collaborative relationship between local education agencies, states, and the federal government. States agree to implement the law with the understanding that the federal government will provide a share of the funding. When we fail to fund programs adequately, we may harm that relationship and limit the law's potential.

Congress included a historic \$13 billion increase in funding for Title I in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These dollars will allow school districts to avert layoffs, make progress towards rigorous standards, establish data systems to track student progress, and improve professional development. It is important that we continue progress in this area in annual budget and appropriations cycle.

A sustained commitment to ESEA would have considerable positive effects. It would allow states to devote additional resources to train teachers to meet the academic needs of students with diverse learning requirements, create and implement better assessments that truly measure student performance, help turn around struggling schools, and work to narrow the achievement gap to ensure that every student has equal opportunity to succeed. Education is an investment that more than pays for itself; a well-educated workforce produces increased earnings and tax revenues and generates the knowledge and innovation that sparks economic growth. Furthermore, our democracy depends upon a world-class public education that prepares our citizenry to understand and succeed in a globally interdependent world.

We urge you to continue efforts to meet the federal government's obligation to ESEA by including significant funding in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Education must be a top budget priority so we can ensure that all of our children have the resources they need for success.

Sincerely,


CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

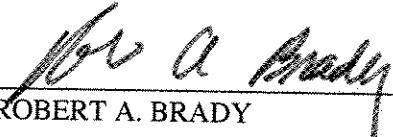

NEIL ABERCROMBIE


JASON ALTMIRE


TAMMY BALDWIN

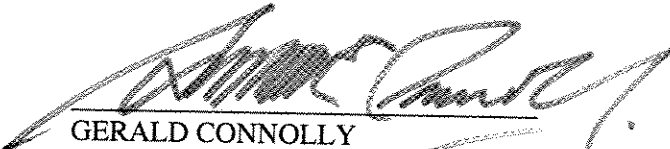

SHELLEY BERKLEY


HOWARD L. BERMAN


ROBERT A. BRADY


KATHY CASTOR


YVETTE CLARKE


GERALD CONNOLLY


JOHN CONYERS


JOE COURTNEY


JOHN DINGELL


DONNA F. EDWARDS

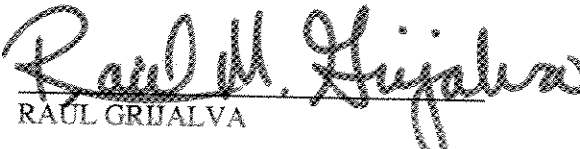

KEITH ELLISON


BOB ETHERIDGE


CHAKA FATTAH


BART GORDON


AL GREEN


RAUL GRIJALVA

John Hall

JOHN HALL

Alcee L. Hastings

ALCEE L. HASTINGS

James A. Himes

JAMES A. HIMES

Mazie Hirono

MAZIE HIRONO

Rush Holt

RUSH HOLT

Dale E. Kildee

DALE E. KILDEE

Mary Jo Kilroy

MARY JO KILROY

Ron Klein

RON KLEIN

Dennis J. Kucinich

DENNIS KUCINICH

Dave Loebsack

DAVE LOEBSACK

Stephen Lynch

STEPHEN LYNCH

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY

James P. McGovern

JAMES P. MCGOVERN

Jerry McNerney

JERRY MCNERNEY

Michael H. Michaud

MICHAEL MICHAUD

Dennis Moore

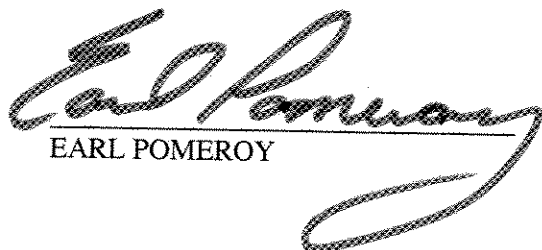
DENNIS MOORE

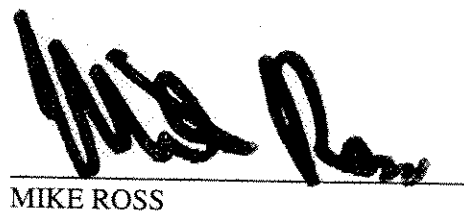
Bill Pascrell, Jr.

BILL PASCRELL, JR.

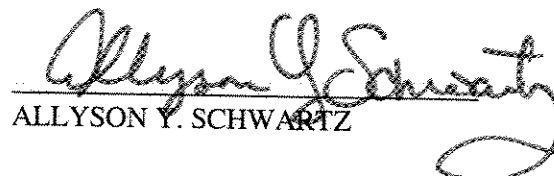
Jared Polis

JARED POLIS


EARL POMEROY

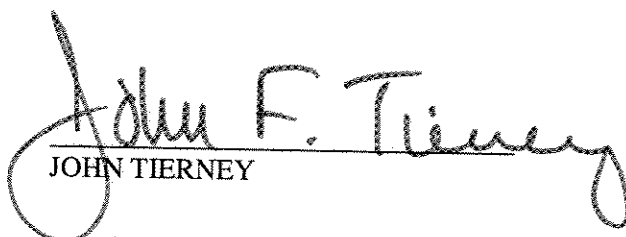

MIKE ROSS


GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

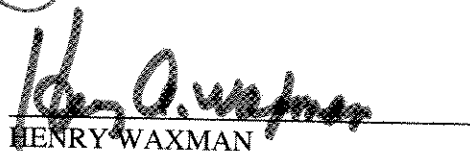

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ



DAVID SCOTT


BETTY SUTTON

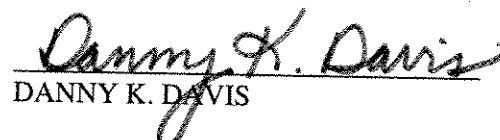

JOHN TIERNEY

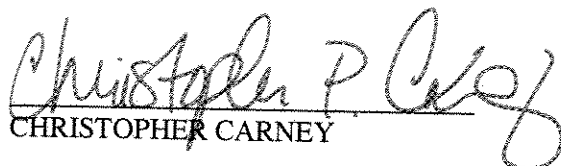

DINA TITUS

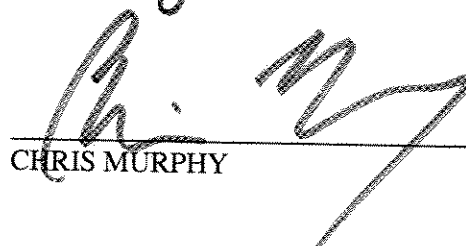

HENRY WAXMAN

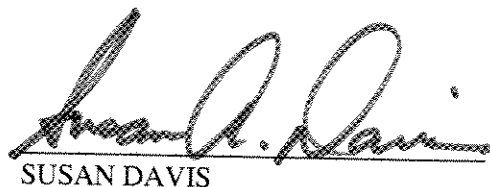

ROBERT WEXLER


LYNN WOOLSEY


DANNY K. DAVIS


CHRISTOPHER CARNEY


CHRIS MURPHY


SUSAN DAVIS


DAVE REICHERT


CAROLYN MCCARTHY